

His leadership and hard work earned him recognition from the citizens of Maplewood and the State of New Jersey. The New Jersey State League of Municipalities awarded Mayor Grasmere the Presidential Citation for Extraordinary Service in 1988 and in 1991, he was the recipient of Elected Official Award from the American Public Works Association for his outstanding public works.

Mr. Grasmere's dedication to the Maplewood community led him to be a founding member of the Durand-Hedden House and Garden Association, an organization who's many causes concluded the restoration of a prerevolutionary property in Maplewood. It has since been designated as Grasmere Park in honor of this outstanding person.

Robert H. Grasmere is an exceptional citizen who has dedicated his life to the people of Maplewood and the State of New Jersey. I congratulate him on his numerous past successes and what I am sure will be many more successes yet to come.●

CHILDREN AND TELEVISION

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I would like to insert a statement by Keith Geiger in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The statement follows:

[From the National Education Association]

CHILDREN, TV, AND THE PUBLIC GOOD

(By Keith Geiger)

Do you believe that "Super Mario Brothers," the cartoon based on the popular video game, teaches children self-confidence? Would you call television broadcasts of "G.I. Joe," "The Flintstones," and "The Jetsons" educational programming?

Welcome to the world of children's television—where these and other equally astounding assertions are made regularly by TV stations applying to the Federal Communications Commission for license renewal. Even more remarkable, the FCC agrees that these programs serve "the educational and informational needs of children" as required by the Children's Television Act.

Here we are, a nation deeply concerned about the lack of values, the level of violence, and the academic achievement of our children and youth. But flip through the channels and Saturday morning or weekday afternoon. You'll find program after program glorifying space-age shoot-em-ups, ninja warriors, brutality and mayhem. Many of the shows are nothing more than promotional vehicles for toys.

With a very few—immediately obvious—exceptions, television aimed at children is the domain of toy manufacturers. In the words of Shari Lewis of Lamb Chop fame, "Our kids are very much for sale to the highest bidder."

This isn't a new phenomenon. It's the reason the Children's Television Act was passed four years ago. The problem is, this act hasn't changed children's programming. It was written very broadly, and the FCC rules governing its implementation are weak. There's no definition of what constitutes educational programming—or of how much of it a station must provide.

So "G.I. Joe" and "Super Mario Brothers" become "educational." And millions of U.S. children watch "Mighty Morphin Power Rangers," which has been taken off the air

in Canada and New Zealand because of excessive violence.

When asked recently to define quality children's television, Shari Lewis replied: "You must role model for kids the kind of behavior you want. If the intention is to do a program that seduces children to watch through explosions, chases, crashes, verbal and physical hostility, and aggression, I don't care if you tack on a pro-social message at the end of the show."

That is exactly what has happened under the Children's Television Act. Broadcasters have produced some so-called educational programs. But what many of these programs do, in the words of a Christian Science Monitor editorial, is to "hide a smidgen of educational nutrition inside a candy bar of frenetic entertainment." And the truth remains that children learn far more from all the action and freneticism than they do from the moralistic words.

The FCC is currently deciding if it should strengthen the regulations that implement the Children's Television Act. The National Education Association is one of more than a dozen education and children's advocacy organizations urging the Commission to put real teeth into its rules. We want the FCC to define educational programs and to require that stations schedule at least one hour of such programming for children each day. These programs should be of standard length (not announcements or shorts) and be shown between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. (nearly half of educational programs now air between midnight and 6:30 a.m.).

Given the fact that 70 million children in our country watch an average of four hours of television a day, I'd like to issue a challenge. Let every station agree that from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturdays, all its children's shows will be truly educational. That should take care of any competitive worries. And it would give our children two options: watch an educational show or turn off the TV. Whichever they choose, America wins.

Television wields immense influence over children. It defines the games they play, the clothes they wear, the way they view their world. It's time we confront the power of this medium and insist that those who profit from it also have a social responsibility to use it to contribute to the public good.●

THE BETHEL NEW LIFE ORGANIZATION

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I would like to recognize the achievements of the Bethel New Life Organization of Chicago, IL. Bethel New Life has been chosen as one of the 24 winners of this year's Renew America for Environmental Sustainability Award.

Bethel New Life is dedicated to reversing the trend toward urban decay and has focused its efforts in Chicago's west side neighborhoods. Building on established community resources, Bethel has developed several job-creation programs. Bethel also concentrates on the needs of Chicago's elderly by sustaining a home-based elder care program that will create 325 new jobs in the area.

Additionally, Bethel is working with Argonne National Laboratory to develop a local recycling and manufacturing center with a materials processing plant already in operation. Community involvement is crucial to the success of Bethel's program, and this is accomplished through Bethel's support of

neighborhood block clubs where local high school students improve math and science skills by learning to monitor the local air quality.

I commend the Bethel New Life Organization for its dedication and commitment to job creation and enrichment in Chicago's urban areas. It is my hope that Bethel will serve as a model for other community organizations working to better their neighborhoods.●

AMENDMENT OF TITLE 2, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 61H-6

The text of the bill (S. 273) to amend title 2, United States Code, section 61h-6, as passed by the Senate on January 24, 1995, is as follows:

S. 273

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 61h-6 of title 2; The Congress, Chapter 4—Officers and Employees of Senate and House of Representatives; United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"§61h-6. Appointment of consultants by Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Secretary of the Senate, and Legislative Counsel of the Senate; compensation

"(a) The Majority Leader and the Minority Leader, are each authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of not more than four individual consultants, on a temporary or intermittent basis, at a daily rate of compensation not in excess of the per diem equivalent of the highest gross rate of annual compensation which may be paid to employees of a standing committee of the Senate. The Secretary of the Senate is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of not more than two individual consultants, on a temporary or intermittent basis, at a daily rate of compensation not in excess of the per diem equivalent of the highest gross rate of annual compensation which may be paid to employees of a standing committee of the Senate. The Legislative Counsel of the Senate (subject to the approval of the President Pro Tempore) is authorized to appoint and fix the compensation of not more than two consultants, on a temporary or intermittent basis, at a daily rate of compensation not in excess of that specified in the first sentence of this section. The provisions of section 8344 of title 5 shall not apply to any individual serving in a position under this authority. Expenditures under this authority shall be paid from the contingent fund of the Senate upon vouchers approved by the President Pro Tempore, Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Secretary of the Senate, or Legislative Counsel of the Senate, as the case may be.

"(b) The Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader, in appointing individuals to consultant positions under authority of this section, may appoint one such individual to such position at an annual rate of compensation rather than at a daily rate of compensation, but such annual rate shall not be in excess of the highest gross rate of annual compensation which may be paid to employees of a standing committee of the Senate."

ORDERS FOR TOMORROW

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand that the distinguished Democratic leader may be here momentarily to participate in the closing.